

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This amendment replaces the Abstract with a new Abstract that no longer includes the term "means." The new Abstract overcomes the objection to the Abstract set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 13-16 stand rejected as anticipated by Dunkle et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,454,300. It is respectfully acknowledged that claims 20 and 21 were allowed and claims 4, 6-12, and 17-19 were indicated as being allowable.

This amendment amends claims 1, 6, 9, and 17, cancels claim 5, and adds new claim 22. The amendment to claim 17, which was indicated as being allowed, overcomes the objection to claim 17.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a tether associated with the protection device and the vent member. The tether, when tensioned, moves the vent member from the open condition to the closed condition. Claim 1, as amended, patentably defines over Dunkle et al. for reasons similar to original claim 6, which was indicated as being allowable. The Office Action, on page 4, states that original claim 6 is allowable for the combination of a vent member, a latching feature, and a tether that, when tensioned, pulls the vent member from the open condition to the closed condition. Claim 1, as amended, includes the combination of a vent member, latching means, and a tether that, when tensioned, moves the vent member from the

open condition to the closed condition. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

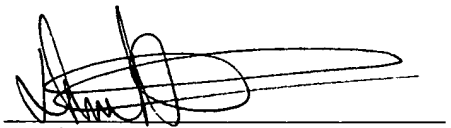
Claims 2-4 and 6-19 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

New claim 22 also includes the combination of a vent member, latching means, and a tether that, when tensioned, moves the vent member from the open condition to the closed condition. It is respectfully suggested that new claim 22 is allowable for reasons similar to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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